



SOMERSET COUNTY SENIOR LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Delegates Meeting held on Monday 18th September 2023 Isle of Wedmore Golf Club at 11 a.m.

The Meeting was Chaired by Senior Ladies Captain – Sue Bamping

Captain's Welcome

Sue Bamping opened the meeting by welcoming the Officers, Delegates, Honorary Members. She hoped they'd had an enjoyable summer. Sue thanked all the Delegates for all the work they had done this season. Working with nearly 80 ladies from 13 clubs means that your job is pivotal in communicating and ensuring that we had a complete team for every match.

Present

Committee Kay Luckett (President) Jill Paul (Vice President) Sue Bamping (Captain)
Ros Chidgey (Vice Captain) Christine Harris (Past Captain)
Janet Handley (Competition Secretary) Jan Bishop (Treasurer) Kate Smith (Secretary)
Jane Harries (Committee Member)

Delegates Eunice Bond (Isle of Wedmore)
Gill MaGrath (Wells) Glynis Nicholson (Mendip Spring) Sylvia Coach-Tucker (Long Sutton)
Yvette Gregg (Stockwood Vale) Jane Harries (Burnham & Berrow)

Delegates Guests Sue Vowles (Burnham & Berrow)

Honorary Members: Caroline Lumley-Frank (Long Sutton) June Mills (Clevedon)
Jenny Davies (Wells)

1. Apologies: -

Committee Members: Fay Galley (Membership Secretary), Carole Paterson (Past President)

Delegates: - Sue Sweet (Orchardleigh) Diane Webster (Enmore) Pat Lucas (Minehead)
Pat Follett (Taunton & Pickeridge) Pat Campbell (Oake Manor) rosemary Fife (Clevedon)
Di Richardson (Tall Pines) Elaine Richardson (Mendip) Sue Jacobs (Saltford)
Jenny Thomas (Isle of Wedmore)

Honorary Members: Mary Dolman (Saltford)

2. Approval of the minutes held on 3rd April 2023

Proposer Eunice Bond (Isle of Wedmore), Seconded by Yvette Gregg (Stockwood Vale) .

3. Matters Arising

4. Captain's Report

This year the balance between the home and away matches was such that we were travelling away for four out of the six matches. I am hoping that we can make it more even for the year

after next by adjusting one of the Friendly matches so we would then have three home and three away each year.

The match details for the past year are as follows: -

Friday 12th May Somerset v Gloucester Friendly @ Stinchcombe G. C. 6/1 win for Glos.
Monday 22nd May Somerset v Cornwall Shield @ Carlyon Bay G.C. 6 ½ / ½ win for Cornwall
Tuesday 27th June Somerset v Dorset Shield @ Wheathill G.C. 6/1 win for Dorset
Monday 10th July Somerset v Devon Shield @ Honiton G.C. 7/0 win for Devon
Tuesday 1st August Capt v Vice Capt. @ Wheathill G.C. 5/2 win for Vice Capt.
Tuesday 22nd August Somerset v Hants Friendly @ Meon Valley G.C. win for Hants 4 ½ / 2 ½

Although the results were not great all the players seemed to enjoy the day at Honiton, despite the rain. Players met new people, played on some lovely courses, one being The Championship course at Meon Valley and took part in a sociable get together during the meal at the end of the day.

The Captain and Vice-Captain are advised not to play in matches, however so many players withdrew from the last match against Hampshire at Meon Valley that it was necessary for us both to play hoping that everyone else turned up. Fortunately, they did.

I would like to thank Ros for coming to every match even though she was not chosen to play. It was reassuring that we had a reserve in case a player did not arrive. She was also able to supply many of the ladies with a team strip.

Jan Bishop the Treasurer kept a close eye on collecting the match fees. This is very necessary when you consider that's nearly a hundred payments to process in the season. Thank you and well-done Jan.

I would like to thank Fay Galley the Membership Secretary for supplying me with a list of all the Delegates and players as this enabled me to contact members directly when necessary.

Unfortunately, there have been quite a few players withdrawing from matches this year partly due to family concerns, health reasons and, broken bones from playing other sports like walking netball!! As well as pulled tendons.

Ladies who are now over 60 are more active than when I was younger.

The Committee have been very supportive whatever the query I might have. It is reassuring to know they are there in the back room.

5. Vice Captain's Report

I've been fortunate enough to meet some of you at the matches during the season, I would like to thank you for your help in the sale of uniforms, which has gone remarkably smoothly. I'm sure you will be pleased to know that all matches have been arranged for the 2024 season with 5 matches at home and only 1 away, they are as follows: -

Wednesday 1st May v Gloucestershire (friendly) at Wells
Monday 20th May v Cornwall (shield) at Enmore Park
Wednesday 29th May v Dorset (shield) at Bulbury Woods
Monday 8th July v Devon (shield) at Worlebury
Thursday 1st August Captain v Vice-Captain (friendly) at Minehead
Monday 19th August v Hampshire (friendly) at Long Sutton G.C.

Please encourage your members to support these matches and remind them to put a note in their diaries to avoid double booking. The Friendlies are a good chance for members who have not played in the matches before to get use to the format.

6. Competition Secretary's Report

I would just say how grateful I am to the Delegates who pass on my (many) messages to their members. This year has been particularly memorable as we managed to field 20 teams, 60 ladies, in the Autumn Competition which for the last two years has had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Thank you so much.

As players completed their rounds it became apparent that the Waltzing Bowmaker had not been the easiest format for this course the 'three to count' holes proving particularly tricky.

Something to be taken into consideration for next year's Autumn Competition.

I am now going to set you the most difficult challenge of all. You might be able to guess what that is. So far, we have only 7 teams, (3 from Minehead) for the 9-hole Bowmaker at the AGM. It is really disappointing as this is the time when winners are celebrated, and trophies presented.

We know Minehead is a long journey, it is for us when we travel to other AGMs to support, but we do it. This situation is unlikely to arise again for a very long time. Please do your VERY BEST to get together a team to take part.

Let's see if miracles can still happen.

7. Treasurer's Report

Bank Balances as of 18th September 2023 are.

Current Account £2,189.67

Deposit Account £4,808.65

The finances remain in a healthy state and deposit interest has now reached the dizzy heights of 1.10%

Subscriptions £1,600 received to date, and we are unlikely to receive any more this year as matches and competitions are almost finished. 2022 we received £1,775 so 35 memberships down.

Competitions There is just the 9-hole competition left next month, as an enjoyable day was had by all at T&P last Monday, for the waltzing bowmaker. I have not received all the invoices for this yet so no numbers until the AGM. Generally, we try and cover green fees and prizes from the entry fees and subsidise the expenses a bit.

Matches Both Shield and Friendly matches were 2 away and one at home this year and show an overall loss of £10 for Friendlies and a profit of £178 for Shield.

You may, or not know that with Shield matches the home team pays all costs for green fees and meals and Friendly matches the home team pays the green fees, each team pays their meal costs. So, in the year when we have 2 away matches, it offsets some of the loss when we have 2 home matches.

2022 matches showed an overall deficit of £810.

Match & Competition Fees for 2024. Rising costs are impacting us all and golf clubs are certainly no exception. We are facing substantial increases in green fees as well as meal costs for 2024 and it is unlikely that we can hold costs at £20 for both matches and competitions. This year, Past Captains charged £35 for a match fee with a 2-course meal and most Opens are at least £30. We are looking at options and do have a possible plan! More on this at the AGM.

8. Membership Secretary's Report

I have been your membership Secretary for 4 years and finish in October 2023. The changes have been huge. Literally from paper trail to "online" as one says now. When I started there

were piles of paper, lists, bulging envelopes, cheques, and cash! Now it is emails and computer folders and BACS! Thank you so much for embracing the changes. The membership lists from you arrive in different formats, but I find it a challenge I enjoy, and generally there is no problem in saving the lists to the folder.

We the Committee could not operate without your help, so thank you.

I hope whoever takes over from me enjoys the position as much as I have, and you the Delegates continue to help her with your neat up to date lists of members.

I am also finishing as a Delegate for Bath this Autumn, but Stephanie Moorfoot is taking over, so please make her welcome to this “delegates club”!!

9. President's Report

This year has been a very busy year for your committee members and the effort put in has been second to none. The support I have received has been really appreciated as I have many commitments apart from Somerset Senior Ladies.

Captain Sue has done a tremendous job, having to cope with so many people with- drawing from teams at the last minute, always managing in the end to field a full team.

Thank you to **Janet**, our Competition Secretary for the organising the competitions so efficiently, team games have been well supported this year by the members.

This year as you know we are running the Field Days for the SW Vets, a big thank you to our sub-committee in organising the two Field Days, especially to **Carole Paterson** acting as the post box and **Jan Bishop** receiving all the entry monies.

I do appreciate the work Delegates do, you are our link to the Clubs, please try and encourage your members to support the Seniors, by sign up for matches and competitions, they're good way of meeting old friends and enjoying a game of golf.

Fay Galley has served on the committee for 4 years and is now retiring as membership secretary, a big thank you to her for her organising skills. The artistic posters Fay has produced for the Field Days are excellent, these can be found on the website.

Do look on the website for information, **Chris Harris** does an excellent job keeping it up to date.

I must say thank you to **Jill Paul**, as Vice President she has been so supportive, and I wish her every success next year.

Please do try and come to the AGM, 9- hole Bowmaker and Putting- competitions to be held on 19th October at Minehead plenty of spaces left.

All matches and competitions are arranged for 2024 season, giving you another year of excellent County Senior golf. **Please support your Captain for 2024 Ros Chidgey** who I am sure will do a great job.

10. South-West Vets

South West Vets Spring Field Day was held on 1st June, Somerset Senior Ladies hosted this event at Bowood Golf & Country Club north Cornwall.

A field of 36 took part on a course in excellent condition, with the bonus of glorious weather. The Club Pro: and Staff at Bowood were very helpful before and on the day in the organisation of the event.

A big thank you to Carole for acting as Post box for the entries, with a date change involved for the competition organising the entries was not easy. Thank you to Jan our Treasurer for liaising with Carole for payment of entries, BACS is not used by everyone!

Janet and Jill for their help before and on the day.

Our chosen charity is South West Children's Hospice, and the Ball Draw raised £60. Autumn Field Day is being held on Thursday 21st September at Stover in Devon, with a magnificent field of 98.

Next year 2024 the Spring Field Day is at Yeovil Golf Club on Thursday 9th May. Autumn Field Day is at Weston-Super-Mare on Thursday 26th September, please try and support, as neither of them are too far to travel for Somerset ladies.

11. Secretary's Report

Not only is this my first year as your secretary, but it's also my first Delegates meeting too, so thought I ought to show my face.

Through several issues this year delaying me getting out there to meet you all and to take part in all the golf available to us – but some of us have met and played golf before, several years ago, when I lived in Bath.

This job has been an enormous learning curve, but I can only thank my lucky stars, because much of my time has been spent reading through old admin, which is an education as in the past I discovered that my job would have included –

Ordering and supplying the uniforms, chasing unreturned trophies, chasing out of date contact information, and supplying the events calendar – I've got off lightly.

I'm learning to love the job, I am just grateful that my buddies here on Committee can put up with all my queries, asking advice and oh all those typos.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support and hope by next season I will be out and about more and not stuck in front of my computer.

12. Delegates Duties was removed as the Constitution is still under review.

News from the Clubs

Wells – Gill Magrath - Mark Lewer our greenkeeper has made great improvements. We need a new sprinkler system, like several clubs, which has been estimated to cost around one million pounds. We have a thriving Junior section due to our pro and a developing new Ladies section based on Women in Golf.

At our AGM in November, we appoint our second Lady Club Captain.

Isle of Wedmore - Eunice Bond - 136 entrants had entered the Ladies Autumn Open, 18 being away teams, 10 mixed & 6 home teams.

Since Covid, ladies had just got out of the habit of visiting the locker room, some putting golf shoes on in the car park, therefore not viewing information available on notice boards, Eunice thought that, although many ladies used to play in Senior Ladies competitions, it seems that Isle of Wedmore dates clashed with the Senior Ladies competitions which owed to the lack of entries from Isle of Wedmore.

Long Sutton - Sylvie Coach Tucker said that Long Sutton are making more changes, there is a new tee on the 11th, and they are going to move the men's tee on the 1st also the Par3 9th which is surrounded by 5 bunkers - they are removing these and putting one very large one right in front of the green.

Clevedon – June Mills suggested that once the Delegates Duties had been finalised, that a sentence be added, regarding those who are stepping down that – 'They should ensure that a hard copy of Delegates Duties is given to the next delegate along with advice on how to access the website'.

When collecting the annual subs perhaps delegates could be more pro-active encouraging ladies to join and to sign up for competitions.

June also suggested and, it was shared by other delegates, that playing 9 holes after the meeting may encourage more attendees. June wondered if the host club may find a few slots at a reduced rate.

Salford - Sue Jacobs sent, along with her apologies, a message saying that Delegates preferred a hard copy of the Delegate Duties rather than view them on the web site.

Burnham & Berrow Jane Harries reported we have appointed a new General Manager, Barney Coleman, who until recently worked at the Emirates Golf Club in Dubai.

Last year it was the intention for the R&A to hold final qualifying for the Open at Burnham & Berrow. However, with the extreme heat and drought, our fairways suffered, and the R&A moved the 2023 qualifying to Royal Porthcawl G.C. The fairways have recovered and for the remaining 4 years of the original contract, it will be played at Burnham.

Burnham & Berrow has been nominated for the 'Venue of the Year' award in recognition for providing the best experience for women and Junior golfers through its delivery of multiple initiatives linked to the R&A Women in Golf Charter pledges, which are to grow and nurture women's and junior golf at all levels. Our head PGA Teaching Professional, Nicola Stroud, together with members Jean Booth and Alysia Rees attended Walton Heath to collect the award.

The Club is pleased to confirm that not only do we have Nicola as our Head Coach, but also gender-neutral tee boxes, a female starter, female caddies available and a female Vice President.

The Love golf beginner courses created by Nicola are to provide a clear pathway to golf. If anyone has any enquiries, contact Nicola on her Facebook page or via the Pro Shop.

The meeting closed at 12.02.

Sue Bamping invited the ladies to stay for refreshments and to socialise.

The next Meeting is the AGM at Minehead G.C. starting at 10.00 with 9 holes of golf and a putting competition. The AGM will start at 3p.m.